

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 252074

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WFC, EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: CANADIAN DRAFT ON FOLLOW-
UP INSTITUTIONS.

REF: (A) ROME 15910; (B) 15858

1. LANGUAGE ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL CONTAINED YOUR REF (A) MAKES MORE SENSE THAN ANY OTHER MODEL WE HAVE SEEN HERE AND IS IMPROVEMENT OVER CANADIAN DRAFT REF (B). WE COULD LIVE WITH 15-20 NATION MINISTERIAL LEVEL COUNCIL ELECTED BY ECOSOC AND SERVICED BY FAO SECRETARIAT (UN SECRETARIAT HAS NO EXPERTISE IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD), WITH HEADS OF IBRD, FAO, WFP AND UNDP INCLUDED IN EX OFFICIO CAPACITY. (UNDP SHOULD BE ADDED BECAUSE IT FINANCES ALL OF FAO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.)

2. SECRETARY GENERAL (PARA I-3 REF (B)) SHOULD NOT QUOTE PRESIDE OVER UNQUOTE COUNCIL, WHICH SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO ECOSOC (PARA I-7, REF B) AND NOT AN AUTONOMOUS ORGAN OF UNGA. WE WOULD PREFER HAVE COUNCIL ELECT ITS OWN CHAIRMAN.

3. PARA 4, REF (B) AGREEABLE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 252074

4. FORMULATION OF OUR VIEWS ON PROPOSALS FOR COMMITTEES
ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
IS GREATLY RESTRICTED BY OUR INABILITY TO SEE AT THIS STAGE

HOW THESE AND OTHER PROPOSALS WOULD FIT WITHIN THE FRAME-
WORK OF INSTITUTIONS IN THESE AREAS AS OUTLINED BY THE
SECRETARY IN HIS SPEECH OF NOVEMBER 5. (DELEGATION COMMENTS
ON THIS POINT WOULD BE APPRECIATED) FUNCTION ASSIGNED FOOD
SECURITY COMMITTEE APPEARS TO BE TO CARRY OUT FOLLOWUP
ON BOERMA RESERVES PROPOSAL. IT WOULD ALSO IMPLEMENT IN-
FORMATION EXCHANGE AND EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM. (IF LOCATION
WITHIN FAO OF INFORMATION SYSTEM WOULD BE A PRACTICAL BAR
TO SOVIET PARTICIPATION THIS WOULD BE SERIOUS DRAWBACK,
AND WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES).
WE SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO OTHERS THAT COMMITTEE WOULD NOT
REPEAT NOT BE THE LOCUS OF NEGOTIATIONS SUGGESTED BY
SECRETARY KISSINGER ON RESERVES, WHICH WE CONSIDER DISTINCT
FROM BOERMA PLAN; OUR CURRENT THINKING ON KISSINGER PRO-
POSED RESERVES GROUP IS THAT IT WOULD OPERATE OUT-
SIDE FAO SYSTEM

5. RE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS,
FUNCTIONS PROPOSED ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE ALREADY BEING
UNDERTAKEN IN SOME DEGREE BY WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, WITH
POSSIBLE IMPORTANT EXCEPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY TO QUOTE
EVOLVE AND COORDINATE A SHORT-TERM AND LONGER-TERM FOOD
AID POLICY RECOMMENDED BY THE CONFERENCE UNQUOTE. WE
CANNOT AT THIS STAGE COMMIT OURSELVES TO WFP COMMITTEE
AS VEHICLE FOR CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP ON FOOD AID THAT
WOULD INCLUDE PREDOMINANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RENEGOTIATING

FOOD AID CONVENTION OR SUBSTITUTE MULTILATERAL FOOD AID
COMMITMENTS AGREEMENT. IN OUR VIEW SUCH AGREEMENT SHOULD
BE NEGOTIATED APART FROM ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS OPERATIONAL
FOOD AID FUNCTIONS. OUR PRESENT POSITION REMAINS AS
STATED IN SECRETARY'S SPEECH, I.E., THAT FOOD AID SUB-
COMMITTEE AS PART OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON PRODUCTION AND
INVESTMENT IS BEST MEANS OF COORDINATING FUTURE FOOD
AID POLICIES, INCLUDING THREE-YEAR FOOD AID PROGRAM. INGERSOLL

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